

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-5, 12, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24, and 25 without prejudice.

Please re-write the claims to read as follows.

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

1 6. (Previously Presented) A method for creating and maintaining a plurality of virtual
2 servers within a server, the method comprising the steps of:
3 partitioning resources of the server to establish an instance of each virtual server
4 by allocating units of storage and network addresses of network interfaces of the server to
5 each instance of the virtual server, and sharing an operating system and a file system of
6 the server among all of the virtual servers;
7 enabling controlled access to the resources using logical boundary checks and se-
8 curity interpretations of those resources within the server; and
9 providing a vfiler context structure including information pertaining to a security
10 domain of the vfiler.

1 7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the step of allocating comprises the step of
2 providing a vfstore list of the vfiler context structure, the vfstore list comprising pointers
3 to vfstore soft objects, each having a pointer that references a path to a unit of storage al-
4 located to the vfiler.

1 8. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein the step of allocating further comprises the
2 step of providing a vfnet list of the vfiler context structure, the vfnet list comprising
3 pointers to vfnet soft objects, each having a pointer that references an interface address
4 data structure representing a network address assigned to the vfiler.

1 9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the step of enabling further comprises the
2 step of performing a vfiler boundary check to verify that a vfiler is allowed to access cer-
3 tain storage resources of the filer.

1 10. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of performing comprises the step
2 of validating a file system identifier and qtree identifier associated with the units of stor-
3 age.

1 11. (Original) The method of Claim 10 wherein the step of performing further comprises
2 the steps of:

3 for each request to access a unit of storage, using the identifiers to determine
4 whether the vfiler is authorized to access the unit of storage;
5 if the vfiler is not authorized to access the requested unit of storage, immediately
6 denying the request;
7 otherwise, allowing the request; and
8 generating file system operations to process the request.

12. (Cancelled)

1 13. (Previously Presented) A system adapted to create and maintain a plurality of virtual
2 servers within a server, the system comprising:

3 storage media configured to store information as units of storage resources, the
4 units of storage resources allocated among each of the virtual servers;

5 network interfaces assigned one or more network address resources, the network
6 address resources allocated among each of the virtual servers;

7 an operating system having a file system resource adapted to perform a boundary
8 check to verify that a request is allowed to access to certain units of storage resources on
9 the storage media, each virtual server allowed shared access to the file system;

10 a context data structure provided to each virtual server, the context data structure
11 including information pertaining to a security domain of the virtual server that enforces
12 controlled access to the allocated and shared resources; and

13 a processing element coupled to the network interfaces and storage media, and
14 configured to execute the operating and file systems to thereby invoke network and stor-
15 age access operations in accordance with results of the boundary check of the file system.

1 14. (Original) The system of Claim 13 wherein the units of storage resources are volumes
2 and qtrees.

1 15. (Original) The system of Claim 14 further comprising a plurality of table data struc-
2 tures accessed by the processing element to implement the boundary check, the table data
3 structures including a first table having a plurality of first entries, each associated with a
4 virtual server and accessed by a file system identifier (fsid) functioning as a first key into
5 the table, each first entry of the first table denoting a virtual server that completely owns
6 a volume identified by the fsid.

1 16. (Original) The system of Claim 15 wherein the table data structures further include a
2 second table having a plurality of second entries, each associated with a virtual server and
3 accessed by a second key consisting of an fsid and a qtree identifier (qtreeid), each sec-
4 ond entry of the second table denoting a virtual server that completely owns a qtree iden-
5 tified by the fsid and qtreeid.

1 17. (Original) The system of Claim 16 wherein the server is a filer and wherein the vir-
2 tual servers are virtual filers.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

1 20. (Previously Presented) Apparatus adapted to create and maintain a plurality of virtual
2 filers (vfilers) within a filer, the apparatus comprising:
3 means for allocating dedicated resources of the filer to each vfiler;
4 means for sharing common resources of the filer among all of the vfilers; and
5 means for enabling controlled access to the dedicated and shared resources using
6 logical boundary checks and security interpretations of those resources within the
7 server and for providing a vfiler context structure including information pertain-
8 ing to a security domain of the vfiler.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

1 23. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium containing executable program
2 instructions for creating and maintaining a plurality of virtual filers (vfilers) within a filer,
3 the executable program instructions comprising program instructions for:
4 allocating dedicated resources of the filer to each vfiler;
5 sharing common resources of the filer among all of the vfilers; and
6 enabling access to the dedicated and shared resources using logical boundary
7 checks and security interpretations of those resources within the server and providing a
8 vfiler context structure including information pertaining to a security domain of the
9 vfiler.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)